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December 3, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue; S. W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. It is my right, as an American Citizen, to know if the food I eat has been irradiated. Even now, I am unable to learn whether produce I buy has been so treated!

Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. Food that is not packaged, i.e. produce, should be accompanied by a poster in plain view the display. Labels are required by law to be truthful, and not misleading to the customer - hiding such treatment from customers is misleading. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for all foods, especially irradiated foods.

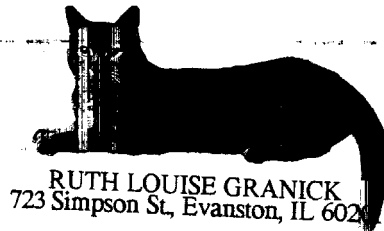
I hope that you will defend my right to know whether the food I buy has been irradiated, just as I am now able to know whether it contains sugar, wheat, or other substances.

Sincerely,

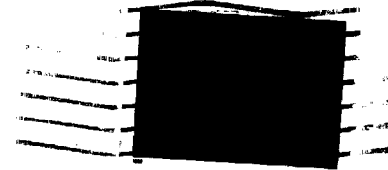


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